

COMPRESSION ZONE RECORDING HEAD

ABSTRACT

A compression zone recording head is provided having the recording tape in contact or
5 near contact with the recording read/write transducer elements in a compression zone of the tape
passing over a transducing surface. The compression zone recording head comprises a flat or
shallow contour head having a thin, hard, preferably conducting closure to provide wear
protection to the transducers. In one embodiment of the invention, the transducers are located in
a compression zone region where the recording tape contacts an edge of the transducing surface
10 at a controlled wrap angle. In another embodiment, the transducers are located in a canopy zone
region of the transducing surface due to bending of the tape due to the overwrap. The protective
closure is preferably made of sputter deposited Al-Fe-Si, or alternatively of a deposited or
bonded layer of Al-Fe-Si, Al-O-Ti-C, Zr-O-Ti, Si-N, Si-C or Zr-O.